

Women Find Hope at Katherine's House

Katherine's House, a seven-bedroom single-family home, is located in downtown Kent close to stores, services, and transportation. It serves six women who wish to remain clean and sober and work to break the pattern of cycling through the Regional Justice Center (RJC). A resident manager and case manager assist residents to develop a personal plan tailored to their individual needs. The goal is a seamless wraparound of services that will help the women move toward self-sufficiency. Women usually stay 6 to 9 months.



Katherine's House, a transitional facility in downtown Kent.

King County, five South County cities (Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila) and the State of Washington all joined forces to finance the development. After the RJC opened in Kent, Catholic Community Services (CCS) began meeting with female inmates. The goal was to assist the women in identifying the barriers that keep them cycling through the jail every 3 to 4 months. Housing free of the entanglements of drugs and prostitution emerged as the number one issue. Over 75% of the inmates reported that they would be homeless upon release.

Armed with that information, CCS requested housing development assistance from King County's Housing & Community Development Program. Under that program, King County staff provided assistance in securing capital funds, refining the program concept, hiring consultants, and getting the building designed and built. Holy Spirit Catholic Church made short work of the site search by offering a church-owned parcel at a below market price.

Three "graduates" of Katherine House have moved on to secure their own affordable housing. They have also been able to take their children back out of the foster care system. Three other women have qualified for Social Security Disability payments, which provides them a meager but stable income. This is one of few programs in the nation that is designed to serve women

released from jails or correctional facilities. Almost daily now, CCS receives letters from women in jails and prisons located up and down the West Coast who want to come live at Katherine's House. The road to recovery is hard work but there are women who want to make that journey. Unfortunately there aren't enough Katherine's Houses to meet the demand, yet.

King County Consortium Allocates Nearly \$12 Million to Housing Needs

Projects like Katherine's House, as well as programs which create and preserve long-term affordable housing, benefit from the partnership of the suburban cities and King County. In 2001, about \$3.7 million in locally-generated funds, \$1.4 million in CDBG funds and another \$4.3 million in federal HOME funds were dedicated to affordable housing projects. An additional \$2.3 million was spent on home repair and land purchase.

About 216 new units were created or preserved for long-term affordability. Fifty-eight ADUs were created in areas outside of Seattle, and another 250 affordable units were created through various regulatory and incentive programs developed by the suburban cities and King County.

King County Consortium: Contributions to Affordable Housing

	General Fund	Comm. Dev. Block Grant (CDBG) Funds	Purchase of Land	Housing Repair	Operating Subsidies for Shelters & Transitional Housing
Auburn		\$ 37,000		\$ 126,000	\$ 17,000
Bellevue	\$ 600,000	\$ 150,000		\$ 316,500	\$ 231,219
Bothell		\$ 40,000	\$ 37,101	\$ 8,500	\$ 47,239
Burien				\$ 77,214	\$ 10,501
Clyde Hill	\$ 10,000				\$ 4,200
Covington				\$ 47,475	\$ 11,197
Enumclaw				\$ 17,000	\$ 5,000
Federal Way		\$ 295,000		\$ 102,000	\$ 52,000
Issaquah	\$ 89,697	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		
Kent		\$ 140,000		\$ 285,589	\$ 141,327
Kirkland	\$ 65,727			\$ 28,900	\$ 60,203
Lake Forest Pk				\$ 17,671	
Medina	\$ 10,273				
Mercer Island	\$ 19,878	\$ 30,000	\$ 31,217		
Newcastle	\$ 47,000				
Redmond		\$ 100,000	\$ 40,107		\$ 99,000
Renton		\$ 20,000		\$ 202,000	\$ 10,858
SeaTac				\$ 55,250	
Shoreline		\$ 10,000		\$ 127,790	\$ 21,500
Tukwila		\$ 75,000		\$ 72,999	\$ 21,000
Woodinville	\$ 10,000				\$ 2,300
Yarrow Point	\$ 4,000				
Uninc. KC & Small Cities	\$2,828,000	\$ 512,500		\$ 700,000	\$ 137,549
Total by Type	\$3,684,575	\$ 1,419,500	\$ 118,425	\$ 2,184,888	\$ 872,093